

NATIONAL PARK OF AMERICAN SAMOA'S LEAST WANTED



Fa'apasī

a.k.a.
African tulip tree
Spathodea campanulata

Guilty of: **Violating parole**

Don't be fooled. This tree has beautiful flowers. That is why it was introduced. However, it is very invasive and capable of taking over native rainforest. The seeds are easily spread by the wind. These trees are currently found around Leone and Taputimu, but are threatening to move into other areas.

How to identify fa'apasī

Fa'apasī is a tall (up to 25 meters) woody tree with very showy large orange flowers. The flowers are also sometimes yellow or reddish and are obvious throughout the year.

You can make a difference

- ✓ Contact the National Park for advice on how to control this species.
- ✓ Don't harbor a fugitive! Do not grow fa'apasī on your property.
- ✓ Alert a ranger if you see fa'apasī in the park.



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Fa'apasī
trees stand
out against
a forest
background



NATIONAL PARK OF AMERICAN SAMOA'S LEAST WANTED



Strawberry Ku'ava

a.k.a.
Strawberry guava
Psidium cattleianum

Guilty of: **Failure to yield**

A relative of the cultivated ku'ava, this fast-growing Brazilian tree often grows in thick groups. This plant takes over native forest by creating wooded walls that prevent light from reaching ground and make it extremely difficult for other plants to grow. Pigs, bats, and birds spread the seeds very quickly. It was discovered in the Tafeta area in 2001.

How to identify strawberry ku'ava

The smooth bark is an orange and copper color with green and red leaves. It produces golf ball-sized yellow or purple fruits and has fragrant leaves.

You can make a difference

- ✓ Contact the National Park for advice on how to control this species.
- ✓ Don't harbor a fugitive! Remove strawberry ku'ava from your property.
- ✓ Alert a ranger if you see strawberry ku'ava in the park.



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A dense
wall of
strawberry
ku'ava



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Fuapepe

a.k.a.
Lusina
Leucaena leucocephala

Guilty of: **Trespassing**

Fuapepe is common in coastal areas and along roadsides on Tutuila, Olosega, and Ofu. The tree re-sprouts vigorously after cutting and seeds can remain alive in the soil for 10 to 20 years. Once introduced, this tree quickly spread to become a problem weed by crowding out native species.

How to identify fuapepe

This scrawny tropical American plant grows as a tree or shrub, and produces numerous long seed pods that are green when immature and brown when fully ripe. The flowers are small, white, and clustered in a pom-pom shape.

You can make a difference

- ✓ Volunteer with a community association or with the National Park to control fuapepe.
- ✓ Don't harbor a fugitive! Remove fuapepe from your property.
- ✓ Contact the National Park for advice on how to control this species.



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Fuapepe
flower



NATIONAL PARK OF AMERICAN SAMOA'S LEAST WANTED

Species on the loose!
The park needs your help!



F. & K. Starr

Miconia

a.k.a.
purple plague
velvetleaf
Miconia calvescens

Guilty of: **Forming a monopoly**

Originating in South and Central America, this tree with extra large leaves aggressively shades out competition. Miconia seedlings can grow in deep shade where most native species cannot. Miconia was introduced to Tahiti 70 years ago and now covers a majority of that island at a devastating cost to native plants. Without action, American Samoa may suffer the same fate. So far, miconia has not been found in American Samoa.

How to identify miconia

Miconia is a slender broad-leafed tree that can grow up to 45 feet tall although it is usually found to be much shorter. Its football-sized leaves have a very distinct pattern, and are noticeably dark green on the top and purple on the underside.

You can make a difference

- ✓ Alert the authorities if you see miconia anywhere in American Samoa.



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Miconia
leaves are
purple
on the
underside



F. & K. Starr

NATIONAL PARK OF AMERICAN SAMOA'S LEAST WANTED



Maina

a.k.a.

Maina (common myna)
Acridotheres tristis
Maina (jungle myna)
Acridotheres fuscus

Guilty of: **Disturbing the Peace**

Mainas are very aggressive birds from South Asia which take over and defend territories from native birds. They also compete with native birds for insects and are known to eat agricultural crops like papaya and ku'ava. These birds were introduced to Samoa to control ticks on cattle.

How to identify maina

Two species of maina now call American Samoa home. Both species appear similar with black bodies, and yellow beaks and feet. The common maina have distinctive gold markings around their eyes (see front of card). Maina produce a grating metallic call which disturbs many people. They are most common in urban areas.

You can make a difference

- ✓ Don't harbor a fugitive! If you have mainas in your yard, do not feed them.
- ✓ Volunteer with local agencies to control maina.



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Jungle
maina



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Tamaligi

a.k.a.

Albizia
Falcataria moluccana

Guilty of: **Bullying**

This Southeast Asian tree spreads and grows very quickly, and can change the canopy of a forest in a generation. Tamaligi is the single biggest threat to the Samoan rainforest. Not only does it shade out competition, but it adds nitrogen to the soil which tends to encourage many non-native plants to grow.

How to identify Tamaligi

Although it can grow over 20 feet in two years, tamaligi is brittle and a poor wood for building. The limbs pose a falling hazard to houses, power lines, and other structures. Tamaligi trees have small white or yellow flowers and long brown seed pods. The bark is usually bright grey to white.

You can make a difference

- ✓ Volunteer with a community association or with the National Park to control tamaligi.
- ✓ Don't harbor a fugitive!
Remove tamaligi from your property.



Contact the
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Tamaligi
seed pods



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Lōpā

a.k.a.

Red bead tree
Coral bean tree
Adenanthera pavonina

Guilty of: **Speeding**

Introduced from Asia for food, leis, firewood, and its nitrogen-fixing ability, this tree is overtaking the native rain forest. Although it can start off thriving in low light, it eventually grows tall and shades out other plants. Lōpā is widely established across Tutuila.

How to identify Lōpā

Lōpā is a medium-sized deciduous tree with small yellow flowers and small green leaves. When mature, the abundant brown seed pods open by curling back on themselves and exposing numerous hard, bean-sized red seeds.

You can make a difference

- ✓ Volunteer with a community association or with the National Park to control lōpā.
- ✓ Don't harbor a fugitive! Do not grow lōpā on your property.
- ✓ Contact the National Park for advice on how to control this species.



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Bright
red seeds
of the
lōpā tree



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Fue lautetele

a.k.a.

Merremia peltata

Guilty of: **Smothering**

Fue lautetele is a fast-growing vine that smothers agricultural plots, and forest trees and shrubs by growing over them. It can take over a large area in a relatively short period of time and prevent sunlight from reaching the plants that it covers.

How to identify fue lautetele

Fue lautetele is a somewhat woody vine with large heart-shaped leaves and white or yellow flowers. It is common in the lowlands and can be distinguished by its milky sap.

You can make a difference

- ✓ Volunteer with a community association or the National Park to control fue lautetele
- ✓ Don't harbor a fugitive! Remove fue lautetele from your property.
- ✓ Plant tava trees! Native tava trees compete well with fue lautetele.



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Fue
lautetele
flower



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Pulu māmoē

a.k.a.
Rubber tree
Ficus elastica

Guilty of: **Shady character**

The milky white sap from the pulu māmoē is the basis of rubber and is used to make kirikiti (cricket) balls. Central American pulu māmoē spreads rapidly and is difficult to control. Birds and bats eat the fruits and spread its plentiful seeds around the forest. It is increasingly found in many places on Tutuila and Ta'u.

How to identify pulu māmoē

Pulu māmoē produces colorful seed balls which range from green when young to orange or red when ripe. It is a medium-sized tree with dense leaves that droop in pairs from the branches.

You can make a difference

- ✓ Don't harbor a fugitive! Do not grow pulu māmoē on your property.
- ✓ Contact the National Park for advice on how to control this species.



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**Pulu
māmoē
fruits**



NATIONAL PARK OF AMERICAN SAMOA'S LEAST WANTED



Tinamoni

a.k.a.
Cinnamon tree
Cinnamomum verum

Guilty of: **Ganging up**

An Asian species occasionally found on Tutuila, Cinnamon trees have invaded ridge forests on Mt. Matafao and Maloata. This species has the potential to become a major problem by producing a thick carpet of seedlings which leaves little room for native species to grow.

How to identify tinamoni

The deep brown branches and trunk emit a sweet smell when peeled (the source of the spice with the same name). The leaves are small and shiny, and the flower bunches are grey to yellow.

You can make a difference

- ✓ Contact the National Park for advice on how to control this species.
- ✓ Don't harbor a fugitive! Do not grow tinamoni on your property.
- ✓ Alert a ranger if you see tinamoni growing in the park.



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**Tinamoni
fruit**



NATIONAL PARK OF AMERICAN SAMOA'S LEAST WANTED



Pua'a

a.k.a.
Feral pig
Sus scrofa

Guilty of: **Vandalism**

The pua'a destroys farmers' fields and native habitats by digging up taro, grasses, and other roots. Rain water collects in holes made by the pua'a. These pools provide breeding grounds for disease carrying mosquitoes. Pua'a also spreads the seeds of many non-native plants attached to its fur and in its droppings.

How to identify pua'a

The fur of the pua'a varies from pink to dark brown or black. They make grunting noises or a squealing sound if startled. Tilled or overturned grass or plants is a probable sign of pua'a activity.

You can make a difference

- ✓ Volunteer with the National Park to control pua'a.
- ✓ If you raise pua'a, do not allow them to escape into the wild; and properly dispose of their waste.



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Pua'a
can vary
in color



NATIONAL PARK OF AMERICAN SAMOA'S LEAST WANTED

Spedes on the loose!
The park needs your help!



Mongoose

a.k.a.
Small Indian mongoose
Java mongoose
Herpestes javanicus

Guilty of: **Poaching**

Mongoose or mongeese (both are correct) originally came from Central and Eastern Asia. Many decades ago, they were intentionally introduced to many Pacific islands to control rodent populations. However, the mongooses found it much easier to hunt insects, native birds, and reptiles. As a result, these animals have caused the extinction of many native island species. Mongooses have been seen on Upolu, Samoa.

How to identify mongoose

The mongoose has a sleek furry body which is typically brown, tan, or light grey. It is the size of small cat with short legs and a long narrow body. They are very active during the day time and have a varied diet.

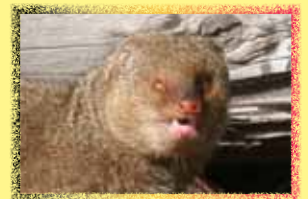
You can make a difference

- ✓ Alert the authorities if you see a mongoose anywhere in American Samoa.



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Mongoose



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© D. Mudge

Rat

a.k.a.

Polynesian rat (Pacific rat) *Rattus exulans*
Black rat (ship, house, or roof rat) *Rattus rattus*
Brown rat (Norway rat) *Rattus norvegicus*

Guilty of: **Robbery**

Rats eat both plants and animals and have contributed to the extinction of many species of birds, small mammals, reptiles, invertebrates, and plants, especially on islands. Most notably, they prey on the eggs and young of a wide range of forest birds.

How to identify rats

There are three species of rats in American Samoa, all originally from Asia, with colors ranging from light brown to black. The Polynesian rat (6 inches long) was introduced by Polynesians, and is a poor swimmer. The Black rat (8 inches) was introduced by Europeans and is both a good swimmer and climber. The Brown rat (10 inches) was also introduced by Europeans and is a very good swimmer, but poor climber.

You can make a difference

- ✓ Don't harbor a fugitive! Eliminate rats from your property.



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Black rats
feeding on
nest eggs

Front: rat
attacking
bird



Courtesy of Nga Manu Images

NATIONAL PARK OF AMERICAN SAMOA'S LEAST WANTED

Spedes on the loose!
The park needs your help!



Caribbean lage

a.k.a.

Coqui frog
Eleutherodactylus coqui

Guilty of: **Mass insecticide**

In Hawaii, these Caribbean lage have no natural predators or competitors which creates conditions for populations to reach up to several thousand per acre. Collectively, they eat huge amounts of insects which is known to disturb the balance of native forests. Moreover, the males emit a loud, high-pitched, two-note "ko-kei" noise from dusk until dawn. If these lage hitch a ride to American Samoa on plants or other materials, they may have a devastating impact on Samoan rain forests.

How to identify Caribbean lage

Easily identified, this small lage is brown to grey-brown in color with a thin tan stripe down the middle of its back. It thrives in moist and thickly vegetated areas.

You can make a difference

- ✓ Alert the authorities if you see a Caribbean lage in American Samoa.



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Smaller
and lighter
colored male
Caribbean
lage



D. Boyle